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January 31, 2020

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

2020 FEB -5 P 3:10

RE: Ten-Year Rate System Review, Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

The undersigned military and veteran service organizations, representing millions of current and former service members, veterans and their families and survivors, strongly discourages the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) from proceeding with its proposed rule affecting the system for regulating market dominant postal rates and classifications. As proposed, the rule will significantly impair the ability of our organizations to meet the challenges faced by communities that have served and sacrificed for our national security.

Senior leaders in the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs have consistently recognized the need for support organizations to augment the work of their respective departments. Public resources are not limitless. Our organizations exist because the government simply does not have the capacity to provide the kinds of programs, services, and advocacy we provide to deliver and promote the physical, mental, and financial health and wellness that too many in the military and veteran community struggle to achieve. We collectively rely on market dominant mail products to raise funds that help fuel our programs, recruit new members to sustain our missions, and keep our communities informed about veteran and military issues that affect them.

The proposed changes to market dominant postage rates could increase the cost of our mail reliant activities and services anywhere from 29 to 41 percent over five years. Higher mail expenses will force many of our organizations to scale back our outreach and service to members, donors, and most importantly the community of beneficiaries we serve.

Our commitment to keeping costs low will continue, but PRC should also take steps to show appreciation for the fact that increasing mail costs will have an immediate, direct, and negative impact on our collective ability to address the needs of current and former service members, veterans and their families and survivors. Accordingly, our community of veteran and military service organizations ask that the PRC abandon the proposed rule and recommend continuation of the current system of predictable, stable, and modest price increases that are capped by inflation.

Sincerely,

Air Force Association (AFA)
AMVETS (American Veterans)
Association of the Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)

Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)
Chief Warrant Officers Association of the U.S. Coast Guard (CWOA)
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service (COA)
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS)
Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)
Marine Corps League (MCL)
Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA)
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
National Military Family Association (NMFA)
Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)
Service Women's Action Network (SWAN)
The Enlisted Association (TREA)
U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association (USCGPOA)
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
VetsFirst, United Spinal Association (VetsFirst)
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)
Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)